

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
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R 110926Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7428

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 0055

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PGOV, WZ

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER MAKHOSINI

1. RUMOR MILL AGAIN EXTREMELY ACTIVE IN SWAZILANE WITH REPORT THAT PRIME MINISTER PRINCE MAKHOSINI DLAMINI IS RESIGNING. ONE VERSION, FROM USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, IS THAT PM SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION IN WRITING AT END OF DECEMBER. IN FACT, PRIME MINISTER DID NOT RPT NOT APPEAR AT INCWALA CEREMONY ON JANUARY 2, MOST IMPORTANT FEAST OF SWAZI TRADITIONAL YEAR, AND HIS ABSENCE AT SUCH AN OCCASION VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED. OFFICIAL EXPLANATION IS THAT A DEATH IN HIS FAMILY DID NOT, ACCORDING TO SWAZI CUSTOM, PERMIT HIM TO BE IN PRESENCE OF KING AT THAT TIME.

2. LEADING CANDIDATES TO REPLACE PM ARE RUMORED TO BE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZONKE KHUMALO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR ESTABLISHMENTS AND TRAINING K.H. DLAMINI, AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE A.K. HLOPHE.

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3. COMMENT. PRINCE MAKHOSINI'S HEALTH HAS NOT BEEN GOOD

FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND RUMORS OF HIS RESIGNATION
HAVE CROPPED UP PERIODICALLY. THIS TIME, THE RUMORS
APPEAR TO HAVE A STRONGER FOUNDATION. HOWEVER, CHANGES
OF SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE MADE INFREQUENTLY IN SWAZILAND;
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PM WILL SIMPLY FADE FROM THE SCENE
AND THAT SOME TIME WILL ELAPSE BEFORE A SUCCESSOR IS
OFFICIALLY APPOINTED.

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Message Attributes

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